

As an Amateur Extra Class Amateur Radio Operator I have already passed the required exams for the Morse Code. As an ARRL Volunteer Examiner, I have spoken with many applicants and tested them on both Morse Code and other elements needed to obtain an Amateur Radio License. I see the barrier they endure to obtain higher classes of license to have always been the Morse Code.

I know from first hand interviews with applicants that many feel Element 1 Morse Code requirement is not needed and continues to be a closed door to their use and enjoyment of this service. I too know that if it had not been for the Element 1 exam barrier I would have been a licensed operator many years sooner.

I see many operators who can not pass this exam due to hearing disabilities limiting their ability to clearly discern dits from dahs. In this regard Element 1 discriminates against those with hearing disabilities which in itself is illegal.

As both an Extra Class operator and a VE I find Element 1 a total waste of time and money. A mode of communication which is both unused and outdated. The elimination of this mode will serve to broaden the service, attract new operators and provide the continued growth of the service in the future. In my opinion Element 1 communications testing to fulfill a license requirement is unnecessary and no longer called for as we progress with newer and better technologies which have proven to be more effective.

I support the actions of my fellow operators and VE testing teams as we ask for the removal of this Element from our license requirement.

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